



**SIG Overview**  
**July 18 - 10, 2010**  
***Helena, MT***

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Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

The Montana Office of Public Instruction provides vision, advocacy, support, and leadership for schools and communities to ensure that all students meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.

# Our Challenges

- We know our communities have survived tough challenges that few other Montanans have faced
- Everyone suffers in a school system that doesn't work for the kids or the adults
- Our resiliency & strength keeps us going



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# Our Shared Vision

- Schools should be healthy, safe environments where kids and adults have the opportunity to thrive
- We all want our kids to get a great education → choices in life
- We know we can't do it alone



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# The Opportunity is NOW

- We are at an unique crossroads that we cannot afford to let slip through our fingers
- Denise Juneau as our State Superintendent, national priorities & funding, and the momentum we see from school board trustees, educators, parents, and community members -- the time to act is now



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# Unprecedented Collaboration

- Nothing like this has ever been done in Montana before
- This isn't a typical federal grant where we get money and cross our fingers in hope that it works
- We're building a collaboration to bring in state-of-the-art practices, resources, & expertise so our kids get the education they deserve



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# Our work will be known

- Our hard work, creativity, and optimism will yield wisdom and important lessons that will benefit Indian schools & communities across the country
- Working together, we truly will create Schools of Promise in Montana



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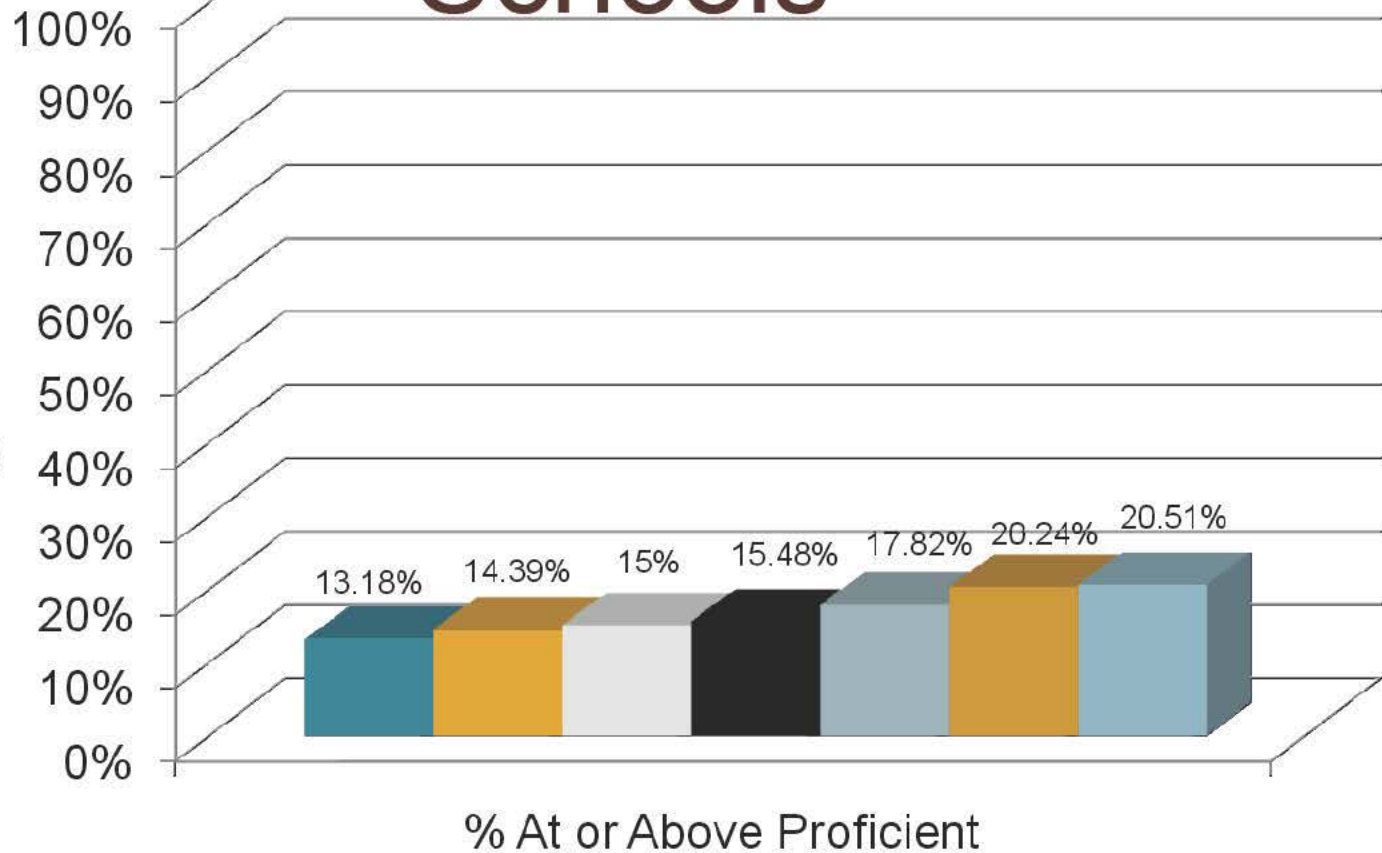
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# School Improvement Grant Schools

- Hays Lodge Pole HS
- Lodge Grass HS
- Frazer HS
- Plenty Coups HS
- Lame Deer HS
- Pryor HS
- Pryor Elem



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# SIG Goal

- To send a clear message, we need to work together to make each school look and feel different on the first day of school in the fall
- Develop relationships with communities, organizations, and all stakeholders to focus on academic achievement and continuous progress



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# Superintendent Denise Juneau



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# Our Core Values:

- Transparency
- Collaboration
- Vision
- Capacity Building



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## In order to participate in SIG, eligible schools had to:

- (1) Sign an Implementation Agreement to clarify main components of SIG requirements
- (2) Agree to OPI's role in grant
- (3) Sign a Memorandum of Agreement to allow activities not currently allowed in local Collective Bargaining Agreement
- (4) Complete these tasks by early June



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## 4 out of 5 eligible schools completed these tasks and now:

- (1) Formed a team of 12: 4 teachers, 2 admin, 2 trustees, 2 students, 2 community members (varies / district)
- (2) Met in June in Great Falls to begin teamwork & overview of District Action Plan
- (3) Continue to work locally on District Action Plan with OPI school coach facilitation



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# SIG Requirements

- All the requirements must be in the Implementation Agreement and addressed in the District Action Plans
- OPI reviewed them with each district's Board and local union representatives this spring
- We seek to have the implementation of the requirements be transparent, collaborative, full of shared vision, and helpful in building the capacity of each school and community



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# Transformation Model Overview

## Teachers and Leaders

- Replace principal
- Implement new evaluation system
  - Developed with staff
  - Uses student growth as a significant factor
- Identify and reward staff who are increasing student outcomes; support and then remove those who are not
- Implement strategies to recruit, place and retain staff

## Instructional and Support Strategies

- Select and implement an instructional model based on student needs
- Provide job-embedded professional development designed to build capacity and support staff
- Ensure continuous use of data to inform and differentiate instruction

## Time and Support

- Provide *increased learning time*
  - Staff and students
- Provide ongoing mechanism for community and family engagement
- Partner to provide social-emotional and community-oriented services and supports

## Governance

- Provide sufficient operating flexibility to implement reform
- Ensure ongoing technical assistance



# SIG Requirements

- OPI staff in schools, working with district on:
  - team building
  - school improvement
  - teacher professional development
  - collecting & analyzing data
  - assessment
  - student involvement
  - community engagement & involvement
- Help district to FOCUS FOCUS FOCUS: this effort is much more than programs: it's system-wide thinking & doing!



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# SIG Requirements

- Focus on improving effective instruction to quickly and meaningfully bring students' math and literacy skills up to grade level
- Schools are human places – working together to improve the well being of the students and adults in the schools: mental health, trust



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# Summer Work

- Develop District Action Plans
- Provide curriculum training workshops
- Work with MBI coaches on student handbooks
- Revise schedule of courses
- Participate in community engagement gatherings (1 per community)
- Plan for PIR days prior to new school year
- Open new school year celebration



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# Our goal

- The school looks & feels different this fall
- Using values of Transparency, Collaboration, Vision & Capacity Building, communities & schools will be stronger as a result of our work



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# We are the ones we've been waiting for



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